

5 March 1987  
MLD-7010

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

FROM : Chief, FBIS London Bureau

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- London Bureau -- February 1987

## I. GENERAL

1. A visit by an Engineering Support Group team comprised of C/ESG [ ] C/ADD [ ] and DC/ADD [ ] resulted in agreement on a feasible timetable for bureau automation in conjunction with BBC automation (mid-88) and bureau consolidation/office renovation, tentatively scheduled for completion in the fall of 1991. A report was forwarded to C/Ops for Headquarters review.

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2. On 19 February bureau management met with BBCMS General Manager [ ] and BBC architect [ ] senior project leader for Caversham Park modernization, to discuss modalities of BBC-bureau coordination for renovation of the second floor and bureau occupation of space vacated by BBC personnel. Meeting results have proved helpful in conceptualizing the project and establishing tentative milestones for specifications, designs, cost estimates, contract tendering and the actual work phase. A report on the projected scenario is being forwarded to Headquarters.

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3. BBCMS Senior Assistant for Coverage [ ] has been selected to replace the retiring Assistant Head of Reception, [ ] effective 30 March.

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## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. On 28 February bureau editors and PMU filed several "ZZ" FYI's and items reporting CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev's statement on medium-range missiles in Europe. The initial alert was filed by PMU from its pressfax coverage of PRAVDA, followed by a 250-word excerpt of the frontpage report only 20 minutes later. The bureau's performance was subsequently commended by Chief, Operations Group in a message to the bureau noting Headquarters and consumer appreciation for "this job well done."

2. An example of not-so-creative video editing by Soviet television was evident in CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev's speech on 20 February to the Estonian Komsomol in which he inadvertently referred to his audience as young people of Soviet Latvia. While the Moscow radio version contained this slip of the tongue, in the television version broadcast some 7 hours later the word "Estonia" was clearly heard although Gorbachev appeared to mouth the word "Latvia." BBC Russian monitors noted that the word "Estonia" was heard in Gorbachev's own voice and intonation. Bureau editors alerted Headquarters to the anomaly. ✓
3. PMU continued to produce lengthy translations in diskette format to facilitate DAILY REPORT publication. The latest item lending itself to this procedure was the 20-take draft USSR law on state enterprise translated on 12 February from PRAVDA.

B. Communications

All communications supervisors have been trained and checked out on Internet equipment procedures. Additional operators are being trained by deputy chief [ ] who has developed in conjunction with bureau engineer [ ] an operations manual for Internet operators.

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C. Lateral Services

1. Early in the month the American Embassy in Moscow and the U.S. MBFR delegation in Vienna requested from the bureau copies of the Soviet television program "Conspiracy Against the Country of Soviets" which accused Embassy personnel of espionage. After a brief exchange on tape and format requirements the bureau supplied copies of the requested program, prompting consumer appreciation for the quick response.
2. In response to a 17 February request from the Political Section of the American Embassy in London the bureau provided a listing of Arabic-language publication in the London area known to the bureau, including information on political leanings, readership, general contents and publishers. Copies are being sent to C/Ops and C/Prod. ✓

D. Technical

Bureau engineer [ ] has designed and constructed an interface unit complete with level meters and buffer amplifiers for the Islamabad Unit to use on the Caversham audio circuit. Also being forwarded to Islamabad is a panel of matching transformers. When installed, this equipment should insure that correct levels are being transmitted and should substantially reduce the hum which has plagued the system.

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## III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

1. Technicians [ ] attended a 3-day Facit service engineering course on the 4542 matrix printer during the last week of February. STAT
2. Wireroom supervisors [ ] became official "first aiders" after a 4-day course on 23-26 February. STAT
3. Teletype operator applicant [ ] was placed in processing to fill the position vacated by [ ] who retired on 28 February after 28 years of service. STAT  
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4. Teletype operator [ ] entered on duty 1 February. STAT
5. PMU Arab monitor applicant [ ] was placed in processing mid-February. STAT
6. PMU Arab monitor [ ] retired effective 13 February after more than 30 years of service. STAT

## IV. VISITS

To the bureau: Ops Gp ADD representative [ ] on 12 February for briefings on bureau automation efforts; C/ESG [ ], C/ADD [ ] and DC/ADD [ ] for discussions on bureau/BBC automation 10-17 February; C/MOD [ ] on 20 February for discussions with bureau/BBC on satellite and terrestrial cruising/coverage; Hqs requirements officers [ ] for briefing and orientation on 23 February. STAT  
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From the bureau: C/PMU [ ] to Paris 23-25 February for interviewing and testing of Cambodian monitor applicants on behalf of Bangkok Bureau. STAT

## V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

On 27 February the bureau held a wine and cheese party in the BBC club function room in honor of bureau retirees [ ] STAT  
[ ] Letters from the Director, FBIS, retirement plaques, and STAT  
retirement gifts were presented, after which everyone had an STAT  
opportunity to wish [ ] bon voyage.

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Attachments

cc: Chief, Austria Bureau  
Chief, Cologne Unit  
Chief, Islamabad Unit  
Chief, Okinawa Bureau